

To: Hughes, Geraldine(621@b3comm.com)

Subject: U.S. TRADEMARK APPLICATION NO. 87083034 - HIMNIGGA SHIT- N/A

Sent: 02/13/2017

Sent As: Myriah.Habeeb@USPTO.GOV

Attachments:

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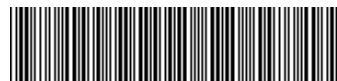
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)
OFFICE ACTION (OFFICIAL LETTER) ABOUT APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION

U.S. APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 87083034

MARK: HIMNIGGA SHIT

CORRESPONDENT ADDRESS:

GERALDINE HUGHES
1600 NW 10TH CIR
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APPLICANT: Hughes, Geraldine

CORRESPONDENT'S REFERENCE/DOCKET NO:
N/A

CORRESPONDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS:
621@b3comm.com

SUSPENSION NOTICE: NO RESPONSE NEEDED

ISSUE/MAILING DATE: 02/07/2017

The assigned trademark examining attorney has reviewed the application and determined the following:

SEARCH RESULTS – NO CONFLICTING MARKS FOUND

The trademark examining attorney has searched the Office's database of registered and pending marks and has found no conflicting marks that would bar registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d). TMEP §704.02; see 15 U.S.C. §1052(d).

ACTION IS SUSPENDED

The trademark examining attorney is suspending action on the application for the reasons stated below. See 37 C.F.R. §2.67; TMEP §§716 *et seq.*

DISPARAGEMENT REFUSAL ADVISORY

Applicant's mark, **HIMNIGGA SHIT**, appears to consist of or include matter that may be disparaging. See Trademark Act Section 2(a), 15 U.S.C. §1052(a); TMEP §§1203.03, 1203.03(b)(i). The following two-part test applies when determining whether a proposed mark may be disparaging:

1. What is the likely meaning of the matter in question, taking into account not only dictionary definitions, but also the relationship of the matter to the other elements in the mark, the nature of the goods, and the manner in which the mark is used in the marketplace in connection with the goods; and
2. If that meaning is found to refer to identifiable persons, institutions, beliefs, or national symbols, whether that meaning may be disparaging to a substantial composite of the referenced group.

In re Geller, 751 F.3d 1355, 1358, 110 USPQ2d 1867, 1869 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (citing *In re Lebanese Arak Corp.*, 94 USPQ2d 1215, 1217 (TTAB 2010)); *In re Beck*, 114 USPQ2d 1048, 1051-52 (TTAB 2015); TMEP §1203.03(b)(i).

Applicant has applied to register the mark **HIMNIGGA SHIT** for "Hats; Hooded sweatshirts; Shirts" in Class 25. With respect to the first prong of the test, the applied-for mark includes the term **NIGGA**, which is "a term used to refer to or address a black person". See *Attachment 1 - Dictionary.com definition of NIGGA*. This term is a derogatory term to refer to a black person because it is a phonetic equivalent of the term nigger, which is a racial epithet that is considered extremely derogatory. See *Attachment 2 – The Free Dictionary, Oxford Dictionary, Vocabulary.com and Wikiionary definitions of NIGGA indicating that the term is an ethnic slur and is extremely offensive; see also Attachment 3 - Wikipedia article about the term nigger, including the variant NIGGA*.

With respect to the second prong of the test, black people are identifiable persons. Under Section 45, a "person" may be a natural person (i.e., an individual) or a juristic person (i.e., a corporation, partnership, association, union, or any other organization capable of suing or being sued). 15 U.S.C. §1127; TMEP §1203.03(a)(i); see *Morehouse Mfg. Corp. v. J. Strickland & Co.*, 407 F.2d 881, 888, 160 USPQ 715, 720-21 (C.C.P.A. 1969); *In re Pedersen*, 109 USPQ2d 1185, 1191 (TTAB 2013).

Moreover, a substantial composite of black people would find the use of the term **NIGGA** as part of **HIMNIGGA** to be disparaging because, based on the evidence attached hereto, it is used and perceived as a derogatory term to refer to black people. To "disparage" means "to speak slighting[ly] of; run down; depreciate." *In re Squaw Valley Dev. Co.*, 80 USPQ2d 1264, 1276 (TTAB 2006) (internal punctuation omitted) (quoting *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* (unabridged ed. 1993)). "A mark may disparage when it 'dishonor[s] by comparison with what is inferior, slight[s], deprecate[s], degrade[s], or affect[s] or injure[s] by unjust comparison.'" *In re Geller*, 751 F.3d 1355, 1358, 110 USPQ2d 1867, 1869 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (quoting *Pro-Football, Inc. v. Harjo*, 284 F. Supp. 2d 96, 124, 68 USPQ2d 1225, 1247 (D.D.C. 2003)). The determination of whether a mark is disparaging depends upon the perspective of the object of disparagement (i.e., person, group, set of beliefs, institution, or symbol). *In re Lebanese Arak Corp.*, 94 USPQ2d 1215, 1217 (TTAB 2010); see also TMEP §1203.03(b)(i). In this case, as the evidence demonstrates that the term **NIGGA** is used as a derogatory reference to black people, the term speaks "slightingly of" and "degrades" them. Taken as a whole, the applied-for mark would be considered disparaging to a substantial composite of the referenced group.

SCANDALOUS ADVISORY REFUSAL

Also, applicant's mark, **HIMNIGGA SHIT**, appears to consist of or include matter that may be immoral or scandalous. See Trademark Act Section 2(a), 15 U.S.C. §1052(a); TMEP §1203.01. The words "immoral" and "scandalous" may have somewhat different connotations; however, immoral matter has been included in the same category as scandalous matter. TMEP §1203.01; see *In re McGinley*, 660 F.2d 481, 484 n.6, 211 USPQ 668, 673 n.6 (C.C.P.A. 1981) (Because of the court's holding that appellant's mark was scandalous, "it [was] unnecessary to consider whether appellant's mark [was] 'immoral.' [The court] note[d] the dearth of reported trademark decisions in which the term 'immoral' [had] been directly applied.").

The applied-for mark includes the term **SHIT**, meaning "*Things; items*". See *Attachment 4 - American Heritage, Macmillan, Collins, Webster and YourDictionary definitions of SHIT*. Based on the attached definitions of the term **SHIT**, a substantial composite of the general public would consider that term to be vulgar. Evidence that a mark is vulgar is sufficient to establish that the mark is scandalous within the meaning of Trademark Act Section 2(a). *In re Fox*, 702 F.3d 633, 635, 105 USPQ2d 1247, 1248 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (citing *In re The Boulevard Entm't, Inc.*, 334 F.3d 1336, 1340, 67 USPQ2d 1475, 1477 (Fed. Cir. 2003)); see *In re Michalko*, 110 USPQ2d 1949, 1951 (TTAB 2014); TMEP §1203.01.

Moreover, the TTAB has held that dictionary definitions alone may be sufficient to show that a term is vulgar if multiple dictionaries, including at least one standard dictionary, uniformly indicate that the term's meaning is vulgar, and the applicant's use of the term is clearly limited to that vulgar meaning. See *In re The Boulevard Entm't, Inc.*, 334 F.3d at 1341, 67 USPQ2d at 1478 (holding 1-800-JACK-OFF and JACK-OFF scandalous where all dictionary definitions of "jack-off" were considered vulgar); *In re Michalko*, 110 USPQ2d at 1953 (holding ASSHOLE REPELLENT scandalous where multiple dictionary definitions of "asshole" were considered vulgar); TMEP §1203.01. Although the term **SHIT** is combined with **HIMNIGGA**, the vulgar meaning of **SHIT** is not changed or otherwise obviated when used as part of a phrase.

Finally, when the evidence demonstrates that a substantial composite of the general public (although not necessarily a majority) would consider the mark to be scandalous in the context of contemporary attitudes and the relevant marketplace, the mark is deemed scandalous within the meaning of Section 2(a). See *In re Fox*, 702 F.3d at 635, 105 USPQ2d at 1248 (quoting *In re Mavety Media Grp. Ltd.*, 33 F.3d at 1371, 31 USPQ2d at 1925-26); *In re The Boulevard Entm't, Inc.*, 334 F.3d 1336, 1340, 67 USPQ2d 1475, 1477 (Fed. Cir. 2003); TMEP §1203.01. Here, the vulgar and scandalous meaning of **SHIT** will be the only perceived connotation of that term when used as part of the composite phrase **HIMNIGGA SHIT**. Based on the evidence attached hereto, the mark would be considered immoral and scandalous by a substantial composite of the general public.

Registration normally would be refused under Section 2(a) because applicant's mark (1) consists of or includes matter that may be disparaging and (2) consists of or includes matter that may be immoral or scandalous. However, on September 29, 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari for review of the prior decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit holding the provision in Section 2(a) that bars registration of disparaging marks unconstitutional under the First Amendment. *In re Tam*, 808 F.3d 1321, 1358, 117 USPQ2d 1001, 1025 (Fed. Cir. 2015) (en banc), (corrected (Feb. 11, 2016)), *cert. granted sub nom. Lee v. Tam*, No. 15-1293, 2016 U.S. LEXIS 4462 (Sept. 29, 2016). Additionally, the constitutionality of the provision of Section 2(a) that bars registration of marks that consist of or comprise immoral or scandalous matter is an issue that the USPTO expects to be decided by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *In re Brunetti*, Ser. No. 85310960, 2014 TTAB LEXIS 328 (Aug. 1, 2014), *appeal docketed*, No. 15-1109. See 15 U.S.C. 1071(a); 37 C.F.R. §2.145. Because the constitutionality of the disparagement provision of Section 2(a) remains in question until the Supreme Court issues a decision and the constitutionality of the scandalous provision of Section 2(a) is currently under review at the Federal Circuit, **action on this application is SUSPENDED** until the Supreme Court and Federal Circuit issue decisions in the *Tam* and *Brunetti* cases, after which the USPTO will reevaluate the need for further suspension. See 37 C.F.R. §2.67; TMEP §§716-716.02.

Applicant is advised that, should the Supreme Court determine that the disparagement provision of the Trademark Act is constitutional or Federal Circuit determine that the scandalous provision of the Trademark Act is constitutional, then registration may be refused because the applied-for mark (1) consists of or includes matter that may disparage or bring into contempt or disrepute persons, institutions, beliefs, or national symbols, 15 U.S.C. §1052(a); see *In re Geller*, 751 F.3d at 1358, 110 USPQ2d at 1869; TMEP §§1203.03, 1203.03(b)(i), or (2) consists of or includes matter that may be immoral or scandalous. 15 U.S.C. §1052(a); see

ADVISORY – TEAS PLUS AND TEAS RF REQUIREMENTS

TEAS PLUS OR TEAS REDUCED FEE (TEAS RF) APPLICANTS – TO MAINTAIN LOWER FEE, ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET, INCLUDING SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS ONLINE:

Applicants who filed their application online using the lower-fee TEAS Plus or TEAS RF application form must (1) file certain documents online using TEAS, including responses to Office actions (see TMEP §§819.02(b), 820.02(b) for a complete list of these documents); (2) maintain a valid e-mail correspondence address; and (3) agree to receive correspondence from the USPTO by e-mail throughout the prosecution of the application. See 37 C.F.R. §§2.22(b), 2.23(b); TMEP §§819, 820. TEAS Plus or TEAS RF applicants who do not meet these requirements must submit an additional processing fee of \$125 per class of goods and/or services. 37 C.F.R. §§2.6(a)(1)(v), 2.22(c), 2.23(c); TMEP §§819.04, 820.04. However, in certain situations, TEAS Plus or TEAS RF applicants may respond to an Office action by authorizing an examiner's amendment by telephone or e-mail without incurring this additional fee.

NO RESPONSE REQUIRED

The USPTO will periodically conduct a status check of the application to determine whether suspension remains appropriate, and the trademark examining attorney will issue as needed an inquiry letter to applicant regarding the status of the matter on which suspension is based. TMEP §§716.04, 716.05. Applicant will be notified when suspension is no longer appropriate. See TMEP §716.04.

No response to this notice is necessary; however, if applicant wants to respond, applicant should use the "Response to Suspension Inquiry or Letter of Suspension" form online at <http://teasroa.uspto.gov/rsi/rsi>.

If applicant has questions about its application or this Notice of Suspension, please telephone the assigned trademark examining attorney directly at the number below. Otherwise, no response is necessary.

/Myriah Habeeb/
Senior Attorney
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Law Office 113
(571) 272-8909
Myriah.Habeeb@USPTO.GOV

PERIODICALLY CHECK THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION: To ensure that applicant does not miss crucial deadlines or official notices, check the status of the application every three to four months using the Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) system at <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/>. Please keep a copy of the TSDR status screen. If the status shows no change for more than six months, contact the Trademark Assistance Center by e-mail at TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov or call 1-800-786-9199. For more information on checking status, see <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/status/>.

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ATTACHMENT #1



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THE PANELISTS



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shit ^{SHIT} (shit) Vulgar Slang

v. **shit** also **shat** (shāt), **shit-ting**, **shits**

v.intr. To defecate.

1. To defecate in (one's clothes or bed).
2. To tease or try to deceive.

n.

1. Excrement.
2. The act or an instance of defecating.
3. **shits** Diarrhea. Used with *the*.
4.
 - a. Something considered disgusting, of poor quality, foolish, or otherwise totally unacceptable.
 - b. A mean or contemptible person.
5. A *satirical* or *ironic* comment, such as marijuana or heroin.
6. **Things** *Items*.
7. Foolish, deceitful, or boastful language.
8. Insolent talk or behavior.
9. Trouble or difficulty.
10. A small or worthless amount: *He doesn't know shit.*
11. Used for intensive effect in idioms such as *scare the shit out of (someone)* for *scare (someone) very much*.

interj.

Used to express surprise, anger, or extreme displeasure.

Phrasal Verb:

shit on

To treat with malice or extreme disrespect.

Idioms:

be the shit

To be excellent or impressive.

get (one's) shit together

To get organized; put one's affairs or possessions in order.

give a shit

To care the least bit.

no shit

1. Used to express disbelief.
2. Used to express contemptuous acknowledgment of the obvious.

shit bricks/a brick

To become extremely worried or frightened.

up shit creek (without a paddle)

In dire circumstances with no hope of help.

when the shit hits the fan

When the situation goes awry; when trouble starts.

[Middle English *shitten*, probably from Old English *-sciten* (as in *besciten*, covered with excrement), past participle of **scitan*, to defecate; see **skel-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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THE 100 WORDS*

ATTACHMENT #2

Search Result for "nigga":

Wordnet 3.0

NOUN (1)

1. (ethnic slur) extremely offensive name for a Black person.
- Example: "only a Black can call another Black a nigga"
[syn: nigger, **nigga**, spade, coon, jigaboo, nigra]



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Home > North American English > nigga

Definition of *nigga* in English:**nigga** 

NOUN

informal, offensive
respelling of **nigger** (typically representing urban African-American speech)

Usage

The distinct pronunciation and spelling of *nigga* are sometimes deliberately adopted to distinguish it from **nigger**, especially when used by black people in a neutral sense. However, **the word remains strongly racially offensive**, especially when used by a nonblack person. See **nigger**

Pronunciation

nigga /ˈnɪɡə/

WORD OF THE DAY

conte

NOUN

The Oxford Dictionaries Word of
the Year 2016 is...

20 words from the 1920s

YOU COULD SAVE
\$598
By switching to Progressive

That's like a
month of coffee.
Very fancy coffee.

Zip Code

Get a Quote

PROGRESSIVE



nigga

Definitions of

nigga

1.

n (ethnic slur) extremely offensive name for a Black person*"only a Black can call another Black a nigga"*Synonyms: **coon**, **jigaboo**, **nigger**, **nigra**, **spade**Type of: **Black**, **Black person**, **Negro**, **Negroid**, **blackamoor**
a person with dark skin who comes from Africa (or whose ancestors came from Africa)[Add to List...](#) [Thesaurus](#) [Share It](#)

WORD FORMS

alternate spellings

nigga**nigger**

Word Family



Usage Examples

[All Sources](#) [Fiction](#) [Arts / Culture](#) [News](#)
[Business](#) [Sports](#) [Science / Med](#) [Technology](#)

Hoplin shared similar sentiments on Twitter: "Our black lives argument is so contradicting right now. This week more niggaz killed **niggas** than cops killed **niggas**."

The Guardian Nov 10, 2016

If I was rapping for the Lord, I'd probably be the coldest **nigga** on the planet.

The New Yorker Oct 25, 2016

If Netflix's Luke Cage is about anything, it's about power — and no word is imbued with as much unique power in black life as "**nigga**."

The Verge Sep 30, 2016

If Netflix's Luke Cage is about anything, it's about power — and no word is imbued with as much unique power in black life as "**nigga**."

The Verge Sep 29, 2016

nigga

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English [[edit](#)]Alternative forms [\[edit \]](#)

- niggah
- nigguh
- nikka
- nikkah

Etymology [\[edit \]](#)

From **nigger**, coming from dialects of the English language which are non-rhotic.

Pronunciation [[edit](#)]

- IPA^(key): /'nɪgə/
- Audio (Northern California, US)
- Rhymes: -ɪgə

Noun [\[edit \]](#)

nigga (plural **niggas** or **niggaz**)

1. {ethnic slur, vulgar, slang, offensive, dated} Eye dialect spelling of **nigger**.
2. {vulgar, slang, often considered offensive, but commonly used affectionately, especially in African American Vernacular} A close and loyal friend.
I'd never betray you, cuz you my **nigga**, man.
3. {vulgar, slang, often considered offensive, but tolerated in African American Vernacular} A black person (usually male), especially an African American.
As soon as I walked into the class and saw that lot of white faces, I felt alone, so I sat next to the only other **nigga** there.

Usage notes [edit]

- There are many nonstandard spellings of this word: *niggah*, *niguh* and *nikka*. Most of them can be pluralized in written English with either a -s or a -z. So *niggahz*, *niguhz* and *nikkaz* are common, in addition to the standard *niggahs*, *niguhz* and *nikkas*. All of the -z spellings are modern, not used in older texts or period writing. The spelling *nigguz* is only found in the plural; there is no use of 'niggu' as a singular. All of these nonstandard spellings are used mainly in dialogue, hip hop and casual messaging, more formal writing usually uses *nigga* and *niggas*.
- The spellings *niggah* and *niguh* have been in use for a long time. The spellings with a *kk* (*nikka*, *nikkah*) are only used in modern texts.
- The spelling *nigguh* to mean *nigga* is common in hip hop lyrics and titles; it is found in modern dialogue as eye dialect for *nigga* as well, but more rarely. It is more commonly used as *eye dialect* for period writing taking place prior to the mid-20th century (or writing meant to simulate that era), reflecting the speech of white people saying *nigger* in a Southern dialect; when this distinction is made, *nigguh* or *nigga* is more likely to reflect the speech of African Americans.

- With any spelling or pronunciation, *nigga* is typically seen as offensive when used by someone who is not African American. Its use by African Americans is sometimes seen as offensive as well, but that is not as common a reaction.
- See more usage notes at *nigger*.

Related terms [[edit](#)]

- [nizzle](#)

See also [[edit](#)]

- [nigga](#) on Wikipedia.

Anagrams [[edit](#)]

- [aging](#)

Categories: [English 2-syllable words](#) | [English terms with IPA pronunciation](#) | [English terms with audio links](#) | [English lemmas](#) | [English nouns](#) | [English countable nouns](#) | [English ethnic slurs](#) | [English vulgarities](#) | [English slang](#) | [English offensive terms](#) | [English dated terms](#) | [English eye dialect](#) | [African American Vernacular English](#) | [English swear words](#)

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ATTACHMENT #3



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Nigger



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the word and its history. For the colloquial variant, see **nigga**. For other uses, see **Nigger** (disambiguation).*

In the English language, the word "**nigger**" is an **ethnic slur**, usually directed at **black people**. The word originated as a neutral term referring to people with black skin,^[1] as a variation of the Spanish and Portuguese noun *negro*, a descendant of the Latin adjective *niger* ("black").^[2] It was often used derogatorily, and by the mid-twentieth century, particularly in the United States, its usage became unambiguously **pejorative**, a racist insult. Accordingly, it began to disappear from popular culture, and its continued inclusion in classic works of literature has sparked controversy.

In contemporary English, using the word "nigger" is considered extremely offensive, and it is often replaced with the euphemism "the N-word". The variant "**nigga**" has to some extent been **reclaimed by African Americans**.

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1885 illustration from Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, captioned "Misto Bradish's nigger"

Etymology and history

Main article: [Negro](#)

The variants *neger* and *negar* derive from the Spanish and Portuguese word *negro* (black), and from the now-pejorative French *nègre*. Etymologically, *negro*, *noir*, *nègre*, and *nigger* ultimately derive from *nigrum*, the stem of the Latin *niger* (black) (pronounced [nier] which, in every other [grammatical case](#), [grammatical gender](#), and [grammatical number](#) besides [nominative](#) masculine singular, is *nigr-*, the *r* is [trilled](#)).

The *Oxford English Dictionary* traces the first English use to 1577, "the Nigers of Aethiop", translated from the Spanish *los negros in Ethiopia*. Other early spellings attested include "nigor" and "Nigre"; the first spelling of "nigger" is in 1608. The OED offers as its first definition "Used by people who are not black as a relatively neutral (or occasionally positive) term, with no specifically hostile intent" and notes that early citations "expressing patronizing views, reflect underlying attitudes rather than a hostile use of the word itself". The second meaning, of "a hostile term of abuse or contempt" from whites to blacks is first attested in print in 1775. Its use by black people both "as a neutral or favourable term" and "as a depreciatory term" go back to 1831 and 1834 respectively.

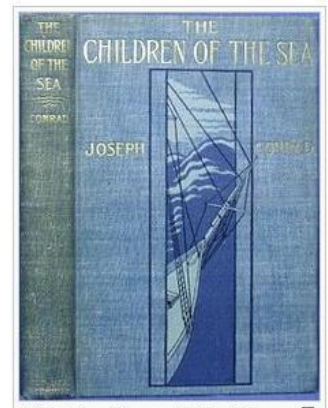
In the [colonial America](#) of 1619, John Rolfe used *negars* in describing the African slaves shipped to the [Virginia colony](#).^[3] Later American English spellings, *neger* and *neggar*, prevailed in a northern colony, [New York under the Dutch](#), and in [metropolitan Philadelphia's Moravian](#) and [Pennsylvania Dutch](#) communities; the [African Burial Ground](#) in New York City originally was known by the Dutch name *Begraafplaats van de Neger* (Cemetery of the Negro); an early occurrence of *neger* in [Rhode Island](#) dates from 1625.^[4] [Lexicographer Noah Webster](#), whose [eponymous dictionary](#) did much to solidify the distinctive spelling of American English, suggested the *neger* spelling in place of *negro* in 1806.^[5] The [dialect spoken in the Southern United States](#) changes the pronunciation of *negro* to *nigra*.

During the [fur trade of the early 1800s to the late 1840s in the Western United States](#), the word was spelled "niggur", and is often recorded in literature of the time. [George Fredrick Ruxton](#) used it in his "mountain man" lexicon, without pejorative [connotation](#). "Niggur" was evidently similar to the modern use of "dude" or "guy". This passage from Ruxton's *Life in the Far West* illustrates the word in spoken form—the speaker here referring to himself: "Travler, marm, this niggur's no travler; I ar' a trapper, marm, a mountain-man, wagh!"^[6] It was not used as a term exclusively for blacks among mountain men during this period, as Indians, Mexicans, and Frenchmen and Anglos alike could be a "niggur".^[7] "The noun slipped back and forth from derogatory to endearing."^[8]

The term "colored" became a respectful alternative. In 1851 the [Boston Vigilance Committee](#), an [Abolitionist organization](#), posted warnings to the *Colored People of Boston and vicinity*. Writing in 1904, journalist Clifton Johnson documented the "opprobrious" character of the word *nigger*, emphasizing that it was chosen in the South precisely because it was more offensive than "colored."^[9] By the turn of the century, "colored" had become sufficiently mainstream that it was chosen as the racial self-identifier for the [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People](#). In 2008 Carla Sims, its communications director, said "the term 'colored' is not derogatory, [the NAACP] chose the word 'colored' because it was the most positive description commonly used [in 1909, when the association was founded]. It's outdated and antiquated but not offensive."^[10]

Nineteenth-century English (language) literature features usages of "nigger" without racist connotation. [Mark Twain](#), in the autobiographic book *Life on the Mississippi* (1883), used the term within quotes, indicating [reported speech](#), but used the term "negro" when writing in his own [narrative persona](#).^[11] [Joseph Conrad](#) published a novella in Britain with the title *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'* (1897), but was advised to release it in the United States as *The Children of the Sea*, [see below](#).

By the late 1960s, the social change brought about by the [Civil Rights Movement](#) (1955–68) had legitimized the [racial identity](#) word *black* as mainstream American English usage to denote black-skinned Americans of African ancestry. President [Thomas Jefferson](#) had used this word of his slaves in his *Notes on the State of Virginia* (1785), but "black" had not been widely used until the later 20th century. (See [Black Pride](#), and, in the context of worldwide anti-colonialism initiatives, [Negritude](#).)



worldwide anti-colonialism initiatives, [negritude](#).

In the 1990s, "Black" was displaced in favor of "African American", an example of what linguist [Steven Pinker](#) calls the "euphemism treadmill". Moreover, as a [compound word](#), *African American* resembles the [vogue word](#) *Afro-American*, an early-1970s popular usage. Some black Americans continue to use the word *nigger*, often spelled as *nigga* and *niggah*, without irony, either to neutralize the word's impact or as a sign of solidarity.^[12]

First US edition, with the title changed from *Nigger of the Narcissus*

Usages

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom and the Anglophone world, *nigger* denoted the dark-skinned (non-white) African and Asian (i.e., from India or nearby) peoples colonized into the British Empire, and "dark-skinned foreigners" in general.^[citation needed]

In *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage* (1926), [H. W. Fowler](#) states that applying the word *nigger* to "others than full or partial negroes" is "felt as an insult by the person described, & betrays in the speaker, if not deliberate insolence, at least a very arrogant inhumanity"; but the second edition (1965) states: "N. has been described as 'the term that carries with it all the obloquy and contempt and rejection which whites have inflicted on blacks.'"

As recently as the 1950s,^[citation needed] it may have been acceptable British usage to say *niggers* when referring to black people, however, by the 1970s the term was generally regarded as racist, offensive and potentially illegal^[clarification needed] along with "nig-nog", and "golliwog".

United States

Political use

In explaining his refusal to be [conscripted to fight the Vietnam War](#) (1965–75), professional boxer [Muhammad Ali](#) said, "No [Vietcong](#) [Vietnamese soldier] ever called me nigger";^[13] later, his modified answer was the title *No Vietnamese Ever Called Me Nigger* (1968) of a documentary about the front-line lot of the U.S. Army Black soldier in combat in Vietnam.^[14] An Ali biographer reports that, when interviewed by [Robert Lipsyte](#) in 1966, the boxer actually said, "I ain't got no quarrel with them Viet Cong".^[15]

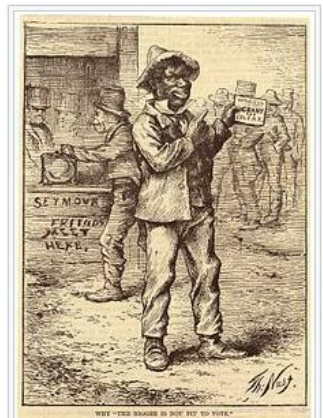
On February 28, 2007, the [New York City Council](#) symbolically banned the use of the word *nigger*; however, there is no penalty for using it. This formal resolution also requests excluding from [Grammy Award](#) consideration every song whose lyrics contain the word; however, Ron Roecker, vice president of communication for the Recording Academy, doubted that it will have any effect on actual nominations.^{[16][17]}

The word can be invoked politically for effect. When Detroit mayor [Kwame Kilpatrick](#) came under intense scrutiny for his personal conduct in 2008, he deviated from an address to city council, saying, "In the past 30 days, I've been called a nigger more than any time in my entire life." Opponents accused him of "playing the [race card](#)" to save his political life.^[18]

Cultural use

Historian [Eugene Genovese](#), noted for bringing a Marxist perspective to the study of power, class and relations between planters and slaves in the South, uses the word pointedly in *The World the Slaveholders Made* (1988).

For reasons common to the slave condition all slave classes displayed a lack of industrial initiative and produced the famous Lazy Nigger, who under Russian serfdom and elsewhere was white. Just as not all blacks, even under the most degrading forms of slavery, consented to become niggers, so by no means all slaves made of



Historical American cartoon titled "Why the nigger is not fit to vote", by [Thomas Nast](#), arguing that the reason Democrats objected to African-Americans having the vote, was that in the [1868 US presidential election](#) African-Americans voted for the Republican candidates [Ulysses S. Grant](#) and [Schuyler Colfax](#). "Seymour friends meet here" in the background is a reference to the Democratic Party candidate: [Horatio Seymour](#).

consented to become niggers, so by no means all or even most of the niggers in history have been black.

In his memoir, *All Souls*, Irish-American [Michael Patrick MacDonald](#) describes how many white residents of the [Old Colony Housing Project](#) in [South Boston](#) used this meaning to degrade the people considered to be of lower status, whether white or black.^[19]

Of course, no one considered himself a nigger. It was always something you called someone who could be considered anything less than you. I soon found out there were a few black families living in Old Colony. They'd lived there for years and everyone said that they were okay, that they weren't niggers but just black. It felt good to all of us to not be as bad as the hopeless people in D Street or, God forbid, the ones in Columbia Point, who were both black and niggers. But now I was jealous of the kids in Old Harbor Project down the road, which seemed like a step up from Old Colony...

Addressing [the use of nigger by black people](#), philosopher and [public intellectual](#) [Cornel West](#) said in 2007, "There's a certain rhythmic seduction to the word. If you speak in a sentence, and you have to say *cat*, *companion*, or *friend*, as opposed to *nigger*, then the rhythmic presentation is off. That rhythmic language is a form of historical memory for black people... When [Richard Pryor](#) came back from Africa, and decided to stop using the word onstage, he would sometimes start to slip up, because he was so used to speaking that way. It was the right word at the moment to keep the rhythm together in his sentence making."^[20]

The implied racism of the word *nigger* has rendered its usages social [taboo](#). Magazines and newspapers often do not use it but instead print "family-friendly", censored versions, usually "n*gg*r", "n**ger", "n—", and "the N-word";^[21] see [below](#). Historians and [social activists](#) such as [Dick Gregory](#) criticize the euphemisms and their usage as intellectually dishonest, because they rob younger citizens of the full [history of black people in America](#).^[citation needed]

Popular culture

Commercial products

In the US, the word *nigger* featured in branding and packaging consumer products, e.g., "Nigger Hair Tobacco" and "Niggerhead Oysters". As the term became less acceptable in mainstream culture, the tobacco brand became "Bigger Hair" and the canned goods brand became "Negro Head".^{[22][23]} An Australian company produced various sorts of licorice candy under the "Nigger Boy" label. These included [candy cigarettes](#) and one box with an image of an Indian [snake charmer](#).^{[24][25][26]} Compare these with the various national varieties and names for [chocolate-coated marshmallow treats](#), and with [Darlie](#), formerly Darkie, toothpaste.

Plants and animals

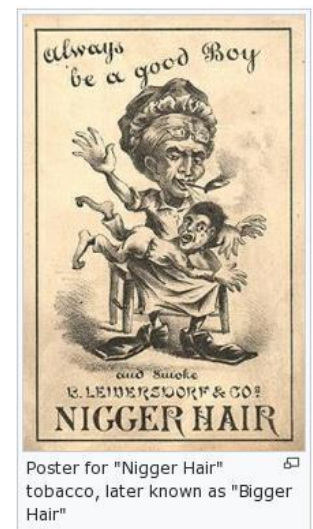
Some colloquial or local names for plants and animals used to include the word "nigger" or "[niggerhead](#)".

The colloquial names for [echinacea](#) (coneflower) are "Kansas niggerhead" and "Wild niggerhead". The cotton-top cactus, *Echinocactus polycephalus*, is a round, cabbage-sized plant covered with large, crooked thorns, and used to be known in Arizona as the "niggerhead cactus". In the early 20th century, [double-crested cormorants](#) were known in some areas of Florida as "nigger geese".^[27] In some parts of the U.S., [Brazil nuts](#) were known as "nigger toes".^[28]

The "niggerhead termite" (*Nasutitermes graveolus*) is a native of Australia.^[29]

Cinema

The movie *Blazing Saddles* (1974) used *nigger* to ridicule US racism.^[citation needed] In *The Kentucky Fried Movie* (1977), the sequence titled



"Danger Seekers" features a [stuntman](#) performing the dangerous act of shouting "Niggers!" at a group of black people, then fleeing when they chase him.

The movie *Full Metal Jacket* (1987) depicts black and white U.S. Marines enduring [boot camp](#) and later fighting together in [Vietnam](#). "Nigger" is used by soldiers of both races in jokes and as expressions of bravado ("put a nigger behind the trigger", says the black Corporal "Eightball"), with racial differences among the men seen as secondary to their shared exposure to the dangers of [combat](#): Gunnery Sergeant Hartman ([R. Lee Ermey](#)) says, "There is no racial bigotry here. I do not look down on niggers, kikes, wops or greasers. Here you are all equally worthless."

Gayniggers From Outer Space (1992) features black homosexual male aliens who commit [gendercide](#) to free the men of Earth from female oppression.

Die Hard with a Vengeance (1995) featured a scene where villain Simon Peter Gruber ([Jeremy Irons](#)) required New York City Police Department Lt. John McClane ([Bruce Willis](#)) to wear a [sandwich board](#) reading "I hate niggers" while standing on a street corner in predominantly-black [Harlem](#), resulting in McClane meeting Zeus Carver ([Samuel L. Jackson](#)) as Carver rescued McClane from being attacked by neighborhood toughs.

American director [Quentin Tarantino](#) has been criticized by some critics^[*who?*] for the heavy usage of the word *nigger* in his movies, especially in *Jackie Brown*, where the word is used 38 times^[30] and *Django Unchained*, used 110 times.^[31]

The Dam Busters

[Nigger](#) was the name given to a black [Labrador](#) dog that belonged to British Royal Air Force Wing Commander Guy Gibson during World War II.^[32] In 1943, Gibson led the successful [Operation Chastise](#) attack on dams in Germany. The dog's name was used as a single codeword whose transmission conveyed that the Möhne dam had been breached. In the 1955 film *The Dam Busters* about the raid, the dog was portrayed in several scenes; his name and the codeword were mentioned several times. Some of the scenes in which the dog's name is uttered were later shown in the 1982 film *Pink Floyd – The Wall*.^[33]

In 1999, the British television network ITV broadcast a [censored](#) version with each of the twelve^[34] utterances of *Nigger* deleted. Replying to complaints against its censorship, ITV blamed the regional broadcaster, [London Weekend Television](#), which, in turn, blamed a junior employee as the unauthorised censor.

In June 2001, when ITV re-broadcast the censored version of *The Dam Busters*, the [Index on Censorship](#) criticised it as "unnecessary and ridiculous" censorship breaking the continuity of the film and the story.^[35] In January 2012 the film was shown uncensored on ITV4, but with a warning at the start that the film contained racial terms from the historical period which some people could find offensive. Versions of the film edited for US television have the dog's name altered to "Trigger".^[34]

In a [remake of *The Dam Busters*](#) by [Peter Jackson](#) announced in 2008, [Stephen Fry](#), the writer of the screenplay, said there was "no question in America that you could ever have a dog called the N-word". In the remake the dog's name is "Digger".^[36]

Literature

The use of *nigger* in literature is controversial because of its modern meaning as a racist insult and its previously more neutral usage.

In the title

Our Nig: Sketches from the Life of a Free Black is an autobiographical novel by [Harriet E. Wilson](#), a free [Negro](#) herself. It was published in 1859^[37] and rediscovered in 1981 by literary scholar [Henry Louis Gates, Jr.](#) It is considered the first novel published by an African-American woman on the North American continent.^{[38][39]}

In 1897 [Joseph Conrad](#) penned a novella titled *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'*



Orsotriaena medus, once known as the nigger butterfly



Portrait of the RAF officers and dog upon whom *The Dambusters* was based



In 1907, Joseph Conrad penned a novel titled *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, whose titular character, James Wait, is a [West Indian](#) black sailor on board the merchant ship *Narcissus* sailing from Bombay to London. In the United States, the novel was first published with the title *The Children of the Sea: A Tale of the Forecastle*, at the insistence by the publisher, [Dodd, Mead and Company](#), that no one would buy or read a book with the word "nigger" in its title,^[40] not because the word was deemed offensive but that a book about a black man would not sell.^[41] In 2009, WordBridge Publishing published a new edition titled *The N-Word of the Narcissus*, which also excised the word "nigger" from the text. According to the publisher, the point was to get rid of the offensive word, which may have led readers to avoid the book, and make it more accessible.^[42] Though praised in some quarters, many others denounced the change as censorship.

The writer and photographer [Carl Van Vechten](#) took the opposite view to Conrad's publishers when he advised the British novelist [Ronald Firbank](#) to change the title of his 1924 novel *Sorrow in Sunlight* to *Prancing Nigger* for the American market,^[43] and it became very successful there under that title.^[44] Van Vechten, a white supporter of the [Harlem Renaissance](#) (1920s–30s), then used the word himself in his 1926 novel *Nigger Heaven*, which provoked controversy in the black community. Of the controversy, [Langston Hughes](#) wrote:

No book could possibly be as bad as *Nigger Heaven* has been painted. And no book has ever been better advertised by those who wished to damn it. Because it was declared obscene, everybody wanted to read it, and I'll venture to say that more Negroes bought it than ever purchased a book by a Negro author. Then, as now, the use of the word *nigger* by a white was a flashpoint for debates about the relationship between black culture and its white patrons.

Ten Little Niggers was the original title of [Agatha Christie](#)'s 1939 detective novel, later changed first to *Ten Little Indians* and then in the early 1980s to *And Then There Were None*.^{[45][46]}

[Flannery O'Connor](#) uses a black [lawn jockey](#) as a symbol in her 1955 short story "The Artificial Nigger".

Canadian writer [Lawrence Hill](#) changed the title of his 2007 novel *The Book of Negroes*. The name refers to a [real historical document](#), but he felt compelled to find another name for the American market, retitling the US edition *Someone Knows My Name*.^[47]

Huckleberry Finn

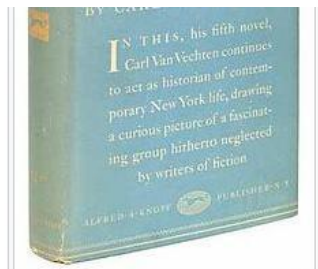
Main article: [Adventures of Huckleberry Finn § Controversy](#)

[Mark Twain](#)'s novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885) has long been the subject of controversy for its racial content. *Huckleberry Finn* was the fifth most challenged book during the 1990s, according to the [American Library Association](#).^[48] The novel is written from the point of view, and largely in the language, of an uneducated white boy, who is drifting down the Mississippi River on a raft with an adult escaped slave, Jim. The word "nigger" is used (mostly about Jim) over 200 times.^{[49][50]} Twain's advocates^[who?] note that the novel is composed in then-contemporary vernacular usage, not racist stereotype, because Jim, the black man, is a sympathetic character.

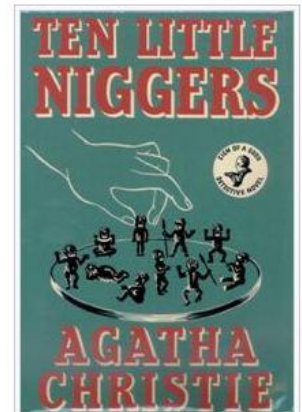
In 2011, a new edition published by [NewSouth Books](#) replaced the word "nigger" with "slave" and also removed the word "injun". The change was spearheaded by Twain scholar [Alan Gribben](#) in the hope of "countering the 'pre-emptive censorship'" that results from the book's being removed from school curricula over language concerns.^{[51][52]} The changes sparked outrage from critics [Elon James](#), [Alexandra Petrie](#) and [Chris Meadows](#).^[53]

British usages

Several late-nineteenth- and early twentieth-century British literary usages suggest neutral usage. The popular [Victorian era](#) entertainment, the [Gilbert and Sullivan](#) operetta *The Mikado* (1885), twice uses the word *nigger*. In the song *As some day it may happen*, the executioner, Ko-ko, sings of executing the



Nigger Heaven by Carl Van Vechten



First edition of Agatha Christie's best-seller *Ten Little Niggers*



"nigger serenader and the others of his race", personified by [black-faced](#) singers singing [minstrel songs](#). In the song *A more humane Mikado*, the Mikado sings of the punishment for older women who dye their hair or wear corsets, to be "Blackened like a nigger/With permanent walnut juice." Both lyrics are usually changed for modern performances.^[54]

The word "nigger" appears in [children's literature](#). "How the Leopard Got His Spots", in the *Just So Stories* (1902) by [Rudyard Kipling](#), tells of an Ethiopian man and a leopard, both originally sand-colored, deciding to camouflage themselves with painted spots, for hunting in tropical forest. The story originally included a scene wherein the leopard (now spotted) asks the Ethiopian man why he does not want spots. In contemporary editions of "How the Leopard Got His Spots", the Ethiopian's original reply ("Oh, plain black's best for a nigger") has been edited to, "Oh, plain black's best for me." The [counting rhyme](#) known as "[Eenie Meenie Mainee, Mo](#)" has been attested from 1820, with many variants; when Kipling included it as "A Counting-Out Song" in *Land and Sea Tales for Scouts and Guides* (1923), he gave as its second line, "Catch a nigger by the toe!" This version became widely used for much of the twentieth century; the rhyme is still in use, but the second line now uses "tiger" instead.

The word "nigger" is used innocently and without malice by the child characters in some of the *Swallows and Amazons* series, written in the 1930s by [Arthur Ransome](#), e.g. in referring to how the (white) characters appear in photographic negatives ("Look like niggers to me") in *The Big Six*, and as a synonym for black pearls in *Peter Duck*. Editions published by Puffin after Ransome's death changed the word to 'negroes'.

The [Reverend W. V. Awdry's](#) *The Railway Series* (1945–72) story *Henry's Sneeze*, originally described soot-covered boys with the phrase "as black as niggers".^[55] In 1972, after complaints, the description was edited to "as black as soot", in the subsequent editions.^[55] Rev. Awdry is known for *Thomas the Tank Engine* (1946).

The first *Jeeves* novel, *Thank You, Jeeves* (1934), features a [minstrel show](#) as a significant plot point. Bertie Wooster, who is trying to learn to play the banjo, is in admiration of their artistry and music. Tellingly, [P.G. Wodehouse](#) has the repeated phrase "nigger minstrels" only on the lips of Wooster and his peers; the manservant Jeeves uses the more genteel "Negroes".

In short story "The Basement Room" (1935), by [Graham Greene](#), the (sympathetic) servant character, Baines, tells the admiring boy, son of his employer, of his African British colony service, "You wouldn't believe it now, but I've had forty niggers under me, doing what I told them to". Replying to the boy's question: "Did you ever shoot a nigger?" Bains answers: "I never had any call to shoot. Of course I carried a gun. But you didn't need to treat them bad, that just made them stupid. Why, I loved some of those damned niggers." The cinematic version, *The Fallen Idol* (1948), directed by [Carol Reed](#), replaced this usage with "natives".^[citation needed]

Music

The [folk song](#) "Oh! Susanna" by [Stephen Foster](#) had originally been written in four verses. The second verse describes an [industrial accident](#) which "kill'd five hundred Nigger" by electrocution.

The 1932 British song "The Sun Has Got His Hat On" originally included the line "He's been tanning niggers out in Timbuktu". Modern recordings substitute other lines.

The [Bohemian](#) composer [Antonín Dvořák](#) wrote the *String Quartet No. 12* in 1893 during his time in the United States. For its presumed association with African-American music, the quartet was referred to until the 1950s with nicknames such as "Negro Quartet" and "Nigger Quartet" before being called the "American Quartet".

In the 1960s, record producer J. D. "Jay" Miller published pro-racial [segregation music](#), with the "Reb Rebel" label featuring racist songs by [Johnny Rebel](#) and others, demeaning black Americans and the Civil Rights movement.^[56] The [country music](#) artist [David Allan Coe](#) used the racial terms "redneck", "white trash", and "nigger" in the songs "If That Ain't Country, I'll Kiss Your Ass" and



"How the Leopard Got His Spots"



The punk band [the Dead Kennedys](#) used the word in their 1980 song "[Holiday in Cambodia](#)" in the line, *Bragging that you know how the niggers feel cold and the slum's got so much soul*. The context is a section mocking [champagne socialists](#). Rap groups such as [N.W.A \(Niggaz with Attitudes\)](#) re-popularized the usage in their songs. One of the earliest uses of the word in hip hop was in the song "New York New York" by [Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five](#) in 1983. Responding to accusations of racism after referring to "niggers" in the lyrics of the 1988 [Guns N' Roses](#) song, "[One in a Million](#)", [Axl Rose](#) stated "I was pissed off about some black people that were trying to rob me. I wanted to insult those particular black people. I didn't want to support racism."^[58]

The term *white nigger* is also used in music, most notably in [Elvis Costello's](#) song *[Oliver's Army](#)*, [see below](#).

Theatre

The musical *[Show Boat](#)*, which subverts [anti-miscegenation laws](#), (from 1927 until 1946) features the word "nigger" as originally integral to the lyrics of "[Ol' Man River](#)" and "[Cotton Blossom](#)"; although deleted from the cinema versions, it is included in the 1988 EMI recording of the original score. Musical theatre historian Miles Kreuger and conductor [John McGlinn](#) propose that the word was not an insult, but a blunt illustration of how white people then perceived black people.

Comedy

Some comedians have broached the subject, almost invariably in the form of social commentary. This was perhaps most famously done by [stand-up comedian Chris Rock](#) in his "[Niggas vs. Black People](#)" routine. [Richard Pryor](#) used to use "nigger" extensively, but later in life decided to restrict himself to "[motherfucker](#)".

Colors

A shade of dark brown used to be known as "nigger brown" or simply "nigger";^[59] other colors were also prefixed with the word. Usage as a color word continued for some time after it was no longer acceptable about people.^[60]

Nicknames

During the [Spanish–American War](#) US Army General [John J. Pershing's](#) original nickname, *Nigger Jack*, given to him as an instructor at [West Point](#) because of his service with "[Buffalo Soldier](#)" units, was euphemized to *Black Jack* by reporters.^{[61][62]}

In the first half of the twentieth century, before [Major League Baseball was racially integrated](#), dark-skinned and dark-complexioned players were nicknamed *Nig*;^{[63][64]} examples are: [Johnny Beazley](#) (1941–49), [Joe Berry](#) (1921–22), [Bobby Bragan](#) (1940–48), [Nig Clarke](#) (1905–20), [Nig Cuppy](#) (1892–1901), [Nig Fuller](#) (1902), [Johnny Grabowski](#) (1923–31), [Nig Lipscomb](#) (1937), [Charlie Niebergall](#) (1921–24), [Nig Perrine](#) (1907), and [Frank Smith](#) (1904–15). The 1930s movie *[The Bowery](#)* with [George Raft](#) and [Wallace Beery](#) includes a sports-bar in New York City named "Nigger Joe's".

In 1960, a stand at the stadium in [Toowoomba](#), Australia, was named the "E. S. 'Nigger' Brown Stand" honoring 1920s [rugby league](#) player [Edwin Brown](#), so nicknamed since early life because of his *pale* white skin; so known all his life, his tombstone is engraved *Nigger*. [Stephen Hagan](#), a lecturer at the Kumbari/Ngurpai Lag Higher Education Center of the [University of Southern Queensland](#), sued the [Toowoomba council](#) over the use of *nigger* in the stand's name; the district and state courts dismissed his lawsuit. He appealed to the [High Court of Australia](#), who ruled the naming matter beyond federal jurisdiction. At first some local Aborigines did not share Mr Hagan's opposition to *nigger*.^[65] Hagan appealed to the United Nations, winning a committee recommendation to the Australian federal government, that it force the Queensland state government to remove the word *nigger* from the "E. S. 'Nigger' Brown Stand" name. The Australian federal government followed the High Court's [jurisdiction](#) ruling. In September 2008, the stand was demolished. The



Nig Perrine

Queensland Sports Minister, [Judy Spence](#), said that using *nigger* would be unacceptable, for the stand or on any commemorative plaque. The 2005 book *The N Word: One Man's Stand* by Hagan includes this episode.^{[65][66]}

Place names

Many places in the United States, and some in Canada, were given names that included the word "nigger", usually named after a person, or for a perceived resemblance of a geographic feature to a human being (see [Niggerhead](#)). Most of these place names have long been changed. In 1967, the [United States Board on Geographic Names](#) changed the word *nigger* to *Negro* in 143 place names.^[*citation needed*]

In [West Texas](#), "Dead Nigger Creek" was renamed "Dead Negro Draw";^[67] both names probably commemorate the [Buffalo Soldier tragedy of 1877](#).^[68] [Curtis Island](#) in [Maine](#) used to be known as either Negro^[69] or Nigger Island.^[70] The island was renamed in 1934 after [Cyrus H. K. Curtis](#), publisher of the *Saturday Evening Post* and who lived locally.^[71] It had a baseball team who wore uniforms emblazoned with "Nigger Island" (or in one case, "Nigger Island").^[72] [Negro Head Road](#), or Nigger Head Road, referred to many places in the [Old South](#) where black body parts were displayed in warning.

Some renamings honor a real person. As early as 1936, "Nigger Hollow" in Pennsylvania, named after [Daniel Hughes](#), a free black man who saved others on the [Underground Railroad](#),^[73] was renamed Freedom Road.^[74] "Nigger Nate Grade Road", near [Temecula](#), California, named for [Nate Harrison](#), an ex-slave and settler, was renamed "Nathan Harrison Grade Road" in 1955, at the request of the [NAACP](#).^[75]

Sometimes other substitutes for "nigger" were used. "Nigger Head Mountain", at [Burnet](#), Texas, was named because the forest atop it resembled a black man's hair. In 1966, the [First Lady](#), [Lady Bird Johnson](#), denounced the racist name, asking the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and the [U.S. Forest Service](#) to rename it, becoming "Colored Mountain" in 1968.^[*citation needed*] Other renamings were more creative. "Nigger Head Rock", protruding from a cliff above Highway 421, north of [Pennington Gap](#), Virginia, was renamed "Great Stone Face" in the 1970s.^[*citation needed*]

Some names have been metaphorically or literally wiped off the map. In the 1990s, the public authorities stripped the names of "[Niggertown Marsh](#)" and the neighbouring Niggertown Knoll in Florida from public record and maps, which was the site of an early settlement of freed black people.^[76] A watercourse in the [Sacramento Valley](#) was known as Big Nigger Sam's Slough.^[77]

Sometimes a name changes more than once: a peak above [Santa Monica](#), California was first renamed "Negrohead Mountain", and in February 2010 was renamed again to Ballard Mountain, in honor of John Ballard, a black pioneer who settled the area in the nineteenth century. A point on the [Lower Mississippi River](#), in [West Baton Rouge Parish](#), that was named "Free Nigger Point" until the late twentieth century, first was renamed "Free Negro Point", but currently is named "Wilkinson Point".^[78] "[Nigger Bill Canyon](#)" in southeast Utah was named after William Granstaff, a mixed-race cowboy who lived there in the late 1870s.^[79] In the 1960s, it was renamed Negro Bill Canyon. Within the past few years, there has been a campaign to rename it again, as Granstaff Canyon, but this is opposed by the local [NAACP](#) chapter, whose president said "Negro is an acceptable word".^[80]

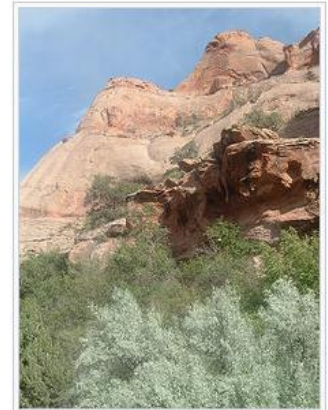
A few places in Canada also used the word. At [Penticton](#), British Columbia, "Niggertoe Mountain" was renamed [Mount Nkwala](#). The place-name derived from a 1908 Christmas story about three black men who died in a blizzard; the next day, the bodies of two were found at the foot of the mountain.^[81] [John Ware](#), an influential cowboy in early Alberta, has several features named after him, including "Nigger John Ridge", which is now John Ware Ridge.^[82]

Intragroup versus intergroup usage

Main article: [Nigga](#)

See also: [Ingroups and outgroups](#)

Black listeners often react to the term differently, depending on whether it is used by white speakers or by black speakers. In the former case, it is regularly understood as insensitive or insulting; in the latter, it may carry



A typical scene in Negro Bill Canyon

notes of in-group disparagement, and is often understood as neutral or affectionate, a possible instance of reappropriation.^[*citation needed*]

In the black community, the slur *nigger* is almost always rendered as *nigga*, representing the pronunciation of the word in African American Vernacular English. This usage has been popularized by the rap and hip-hop music cultures and is used as part of an in-group lexicon and speech. It is not necessarily derogatory and, when used among black people, the word is often used to mean *homie* or *friend*.^[83]

Acceptance of intra-group usage of the word *nigga* is still debated,^[83] although it has established a foothold amongst younger generations. The NAACP denounces the use of both "*nigga*" and "*nigger*". Mixed-race usage of "*nigga*" is still considered taboo, particularly if the speaker is white. However, trends indicate that usage of the term in intragroup settings is increasing even amongst white youth, due to the popularity of rap and hip hop culture.^[84]

According to Arthur K. Spears in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, 2006:

In many African-American neighborhoods, *nigga* is simply the most common term used to refer to any male, of any race or ethnicity. Increasingly, the term has been applied to any person, male or female. "Where y'all *niggas* goin'?" is said with no self-consciousness or animosity to a group of women, for the routine purpose of obtaining information. The point: *Nigga* is evaluatively neutral in terms of its inherent meaning; it may express positive, neutral or negative attitudes;^[85]

Kevin Cato, meanwhile, observes:

For instance, a show on Black Entertainment Television, a cable network aimed at a black audience, described the word *nigger* as a "term of endearment." "In the African American community, the word *nigga* (not *nigger*) brings out feelings of pride" (Davis 1). Here the word evokes a sense of community and oneness among black people. Many teens I interviewed felt that the word had no power when used amongst friends, but when used among white people the word took on a completely different meaning. In fact, comedian Alex Thomas on BET stated, "I still better not hear no white boy say that to me... I hear a white boy say that to me, it means 'White boy, you gonna get your ass beat.'"^[86]

Related words

Derivatives

In several English-speaking countries, "*Niggerhead*" or "*nigger head*" was used as a name for many sorts of things, including commercial products, places, plants and animals, as described above. It also is or was a colloquial technical term in industry, mining, and seafaring. *Nigger* as "defect" (a hidden problem), derives from "*nigger in the woodpile*", a US slave-era phrase denoting escaped slaves hiding in train-transported woodpiles.^[87] In the 1840s, the *Morning Chronicle* newspaper report series *London Labour and the London Poor*, by Henry Mayhew, records the usages of both *nigger* and its false cognate *niggard* denoting a false bottom for a grate.^[88]

In American English, *nigger lover* initially applied to abolitionists, then to white people sympathetic towards black Americans.^[89] The portmanteau word *wigger* (white + *nigger*) denotes a white person emulating "street black behavior", hoping to gain acceptance to the hip hop, thug, and gangsta sub-cultures. Norman Mailer wrote of the antecedents of this phenomenon in 1957 in his essay "*The White Negro*".

The N-word euphemism

The euphemism *the N-word* became mainstream American English usage during the racially contentious O. J. Simpson murder case in 1995.

Key prosecution witness Detective Mark Fuhrman, of the



Anti-abolitionist cartoon from the 1860 presidential campaign illustrating colloquial usage of "*Nigger in the woodpile*"

Notable usage^[90]

The prosecutor [Christopher Darden], his voice trembling, added that the "N-word" was so vile that he would not utter it. "It's the filthiest, dirtiest, nastiest word in the English language."

[Los Angeles Police Department](#) – who denied using racist language on duty – impeached himself with his prolific use of *nigger* in tape recordings about his police work. The recordings, by screenplay writer Laura McKinney, were from a 1985 research session wherein the detective assisted her with a screenplay about LAPD policewomen. Fuhrman excused his use of the word saying he used *nigger* in the context of his "bad cop" persona. The popular press reporting and discussing Fuhrman's testimony substituted *the N-word* for *nigger*.

—Kenneth B. Noble, January 14, 1995 *The New York Times*^[91]

Homophones

Niger (Latin for "black") occurs in Latinate [scientific nomenclature](#) and is the [root word](#) for some [homophones](#) of *nigger*; sellers of [niger seed](#) (used as bird feed), sometimes use the spelling *Nyjer* seed. The classical [Latin pronunciation](#) /nie/ sounds like the English /n ər/, occurring in biologic and [anatomic](#) names, such as *Hyoscyamus niger* (black henbane), and even for animals that are not in fact black, such as *Sciurus niger* (fox squirrel).

Nigra is the Latin feminine form of *niger* (black), used in biologic and anatomic names such as [substantia nigra](#) (black substance).

The word [niggardly](#) (miserly) is etymologically unrelated to *nigger*, derived from the [Old Norse](#) word *nig* (stingy) and the [Middle English](#) word *nigon*. In the US, this word [has been misinterpreted](#) as related to *nigger* and taken as offensive. In January 1999, David Howard, a white Washington, D.C. city employee, was compelled to resign after using [niggardly](#)—in a financial context—while speaking with black colleagues, who took umbrage. After reviewing the misunderstanding, Mayor [Anthony Williams](#) offered to reinstate Howard to his former position. Howard refused reinstatement but took a job elsewhere in the mayor's government.^[92]

Denotational extension

The denotations of *nigger* also comprehend non-black/non-white and other disadvantaged people. Some of these terms are self-chosen, to identify with the oppression and resistance of black Americans; others are ethnic slurs used by outsiders.

Jerry Farber's 1967 protest, *The Student as Nigger*, invoked the word as a metaphor for the victims of an authoritarian society. In his 1968 autobiography *White Niggers of America: The Precocious Autobiography of a Quebec "Terrorist"*, Pierre Vallières, a [Front de libération du Québec](#) leader, refers to the oppression of the [Québécois people](#) in North America. In 1969, in the course of being interviewed by the British magazine *Nova*, artist [Yoko Ono](#) said "woman is the nigger of the world"; three years later, her husband, [John Lennon](#), published the song of the same title —about the worldwide phenomenon of discrimination against women—which was socially and politically controversial to US sensibilities.

Sand nigger, an [ethnic slur](#) against [Arabs](#), and *timber nigger* and *prairie nigger*, ethnic slurs against [Native Americans](#), are examples of the racist extension of *nigger* upon other non-white peoples.^[93]

In 1978 singer [Patti Smith](#) used the word in "Rock N Roll Nigger". In 1979 English singer [Elvis Costello](#) used the phrase "white nigger" in "Oliver's Army", a song describing the experiences of working-class soldiers in the British military forces on the "murder mile" (a term used to describe Belfast during [The Troubles](#)), where *white nigger* was a common [British pejorative for Irish Catholics](#). Later, the producers of the British talent show *Stars in Their Eyes* forced a contestant to [censor](#) one of its lines, changing "... all it takes is one itchy trigger – One more widow, one less white nigger" to "... one less white figure".

The editor of *Green Egg*, a magazine described in *The Encyclopedia of American Religions* as a significant periodical, published an essay entitled "Niggers of the New Age". This argued that [Neo-Pagans](#) were treated badly by other parts of the [New Age](#) movement.^[94]

Other languages

Other languages, particularly [Romance languages](#), have words that sound similar to 'nigger' (are [homophonic](#)), but do not mean the same. Just because the words are [cognate](#), i.e. they ultimately derive from the same Latin stem



Graffiti in [Palestine](#) referring to Arabs as "sand niggers" 6

explained above, does not mean that they carry equivalent [connotations](#). Whether a word is abusive, pejorative, neutral, affectionate, old-fashioned, etc. depends on its cultural context. How a word is used in English does not determine how a similar-sounding word is used in another language. Conversely, many languages have [ethnic slurs](#) that are disparaging of "other" people, i.e. words that serve a similar function to "nigger", but these may stem from completely different roots.

Some examples of how other languages refer to a black person in a neutral and in a pejorative way include:

- . **Dutch**: *neger* used to be neutral, but many now consider it to be avoided;^{[95][96][97][98]} *zwartje* (*little black one*) can be amicably or offensively used, *nikker* is always pejorative^[99]
- . **German**: *Neger*, in contrast, as the equivalent of "negro", is dated and now considered offensive, while *Schwarze/-r* ("black [person]") or *Farbige/-r* ("colored [person]") is mostly neutral.
- . **Brazilian Portuguese**: *negro* and *preto* are neutral;^[100] nevertheless *preto* can be offensively used, is sometimes regarded as "politically incorrect" and almost never proudly used by Afro-Brazilians; *crioulo* and *macaco* are always extremely pejorative^[101]
- . **Haitian Creole**: *nèg* is used for any man in general, regardless of skin color (like "dude" in American English) although it is derived from **French**: *nègre*, which is used pejoratively.

See also

- . [Cultural appropriation](#)
- . *Guilty or Innocent of Using the N Word*, a 2006 documentary
- . [Kaffir \(ethnic slur\)](#)
- . *Murzyn*, Polish word for a black person
- . [List of ethnic group names used as insults](#)
- . [List of ethnic slurs](#)
- . [List of topics related to Black and African people](#)
- . [Profanity](#)
- . [Reappropriation](#)
- . [Taboo](#)
- . ["With Apologies to Jesse Jackson"](#), an episode of the animated comedy series *South Park*, in which Stan's dad, Randy, becomes a social pariah after saying "niggers" on *Wheel of Fortune*



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ATTACHMENT #4

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shit shitUse **shit** in a sentence*Interjection*

1. Shit is defined as a way to express anger, surprise or disappointment.

An example of shit is what someone would say after dropping something heavy on their foot.

Noun

1. Shit is the waste from a bowel movement.

An example of shit is what's in a baby's poop-filled diaper.

Verb

1. Shit means having a bowel movement.

An example of to shit is going "number two."

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LINK / CITE



ADD TO WORD LIST

**shit**

to discharge excrement; defecate

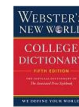
Origin of shit

earlier *shite*; from Old English *scȝtan*, akin to Dutch *schijten* (MLowG *schȝten*), German *scheissen* (OHG *skȝzan*); from Germanic an unverified form *skȝ-*, an unverified form *skit-*.

1. to discharge (excrement)
2. to soil by defecation: to *shit* one's pants
3. SLANG to tease or try to fool

1. a. excrement; feces
b. SLANG the act of discharging excrement
2. SLANG

- a. anyone or anything thought of as being bad, disgusting, foolish, worthless, etc.
- b. the smallest or least thing, amount, etc.: usually in negative constructions: they didn't do *shit* to help us; the wrecked auto isn't worth *shit*



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- c. nonsense; foolishness
- d. trouble
- e. things in general; stuff
- f. an intoxicant or narcotic, esp. marijuana or heroin

INFORMAL used variously to express surprise, anger, disgust, strong disagreement, etc.

shit Idioms

beat the shit out of

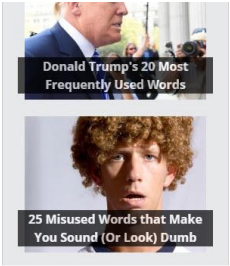
SLANG to give a severe beating to

eat shit

SLANG to be humble or undergo humiliation

Middle English *shitten*, probably from Old English *-sciten* (as in *besciten*, *covered with excrement*), past participle of **sc&imacron;tan*, to *defecate*; see *skei-* in Indo-European roots.

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SENTENCE EXAMPLES

» MORE...

- "There but for the grace of God," and all that **shit**," he said.
- I was just a stupid teenager; mad as **shit** on my shoe at losing my best friend.
- I'm sorry I'm such a **shit** head sometimes.
- Tell me Howie doesn't know all this sordid business **shit** is going on.
- This stuff I've been doing with the plants and **shit** all summer?



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shit - definition and synonyms

[Show less](#)NOUN [Pronunciation](#) /ft/ [Word Forms](#)[Using the thesaurus](#)[Contribute to our Open Dictionary](#)

1 [UNCOUNTABLE] IMPOLITE solid waste from a person's or animal's body

Synonyms and related words

Human and animal waste: cowchip, cowpie, crap...

[Explore Thesaurus](#)

a. [SINGULAR] an occasion when you go to the toilet to get rid of solid waste

Synonyms and related words

Going to the toilet: bedwetting, bowel movement, bursting...

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2 [UNCOUNTABLE] IMPOLITE something that you do not like or think is of very bad quality

The shit he listens to isn't real music.

Synonyms and related words

Something that is of very bad quality: rubbish, reject, trash...

[Explore Thesaurus](#)

a. IMPOLITE something that is not true or sincere

Who wants to listen to politicians talking shit?

Synonyms and related words

Lies: lie, invention, falsehood...

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3 [COUNTABLE] OFFENSIVE an unpleasant or unkind person

Related words

shit VERB

shit INTERJECTION

no shit PHRASE

shit on PHRASAL VERB

shit-hot ADJECTIVE

jack shit

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Definition of shit

[English](#) [Learner](#)**shit**(jit)  **taboo**

Definitions

*verb***Word forms:** shits, shitting, shitted, shit or shat

1. to defecate
2. (usually foll by *on*) *slang* to give the worst possible treatment (to)

noun

3. faeces; excrement
4. an act of defecation
5. rubbish; nonsense
6. an obnoxious or worthless person
7. cannabis resin or heroin
8. See [in the shit](#)
9. See [the shit hits the fan](#)
10. See [the shits](#)

exclamation

11. an exclamation expressing anger, disgust, etc

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apparition

an appearance, esp of a ghost or
ghostlike figure[Word of the day](#)

Train like a Scrabble champion



SINCE 1828

Dictionary



shit



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¹shit

noun | \ˈshit, interjectionally also ˈshē-ət\

Definition of SHIT

Popularity: Bottom 50% of words

- 1 *usually vulgar*: **FECES**
- 2 *usually vulgar*: an act of defecation
- 3 *usually vulgar*: **NONSENSE, CRAP**
- 4 *usually vulgar*: any of several intoxicating or narcotic drugs; *especially*: **HEROIN**
- 5 *usually vulgar*: **DAMN 2**
- 6 *usually vulgar*: a worthless, offensive, or detestable person
- 7 *usually vulgar*
 - a —used as an interjection
 - b —used as an intensive usually with *the*

—shitty \ˈshi-tē\ adjective *usually vulgar*See *shit* defined for English-language learners

Examples: shit in a sentence ▼

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The tablet built
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*Qual. svc., fees, restr. apply.

WORD OF THE DAY

osculate

to kiss a person or thing

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definitions

nigga


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nigga

[nig-uh]

[Word Origin](#)

Usage alert

Nigga is used mainly among African Americans, but also among other minorities and ethnicities, in a neutral or familiar way and as a friendly term of address. It is also common in rap music. However, nigga is taken to be extremely offensive

noun, Slang: *Usually Disparaging and Offensive.*

1. a term used to refer to or address a black person.

Origin of nigga

alteration of [nigger](#), based on pronunciation

Dictionary.com Unabridged

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Word Origin and History for nigga

n.

1925, also *niggah*, representing southern U.S. pronunciation of [nigger](#) (q.v.).

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Slang definitions & phrases for nigga

Word of the Day

bonzer

Words for enemies

CROWDED BEACH
ocean isle style

BOOK YOUR GETAWAY TODAY

Enjoy the beach, miss the crowds.

oceanisle
BEACH

Word Value for nigga

0

Scrabble

0

Words With

nigga

noun

A black person •Not a taboo word as used by one black person to or about another, esp by rap singers : *For several years, it has become common for young blacks to greet each other as "nigga" (1925+)*

The Dictionary of American Slang, Fourth Edition by Barbara Ann Kipfer, PhD. and Robert L. Chapman, Ph.D.

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